

PATENT

AMENDMENT(S) TO THE CLAIMS

1-11 (Canceled)

12. (Previously Presented) A device for the direct or indirect application of liquid or viscous coating medium onto a moving application surface, in the direct application the application surface is a surface of a material web, in the indirect application the application surface is a surface of a transfer element, which transfers the coating medium to the surface of the material web, said application surface including a direction of travel, said device comprising:

5 an applicator; and

a weakening device located prior to said applicator as viewed in the direction of travel, said weakening device for weakening a boundary layer of air carried along by the application surface, said weakening device including:

10 a blowing device located prior to said applicator as viewed in the direction of travel, said blowing device producing an air flow in an opposite direction to the direction of travel; and

a suction device being located prior to said blowing device as viewed in the direction of travel, said suction device suctioning both at least a part of said air flow and at least a 15 part of said boundary layer of air; and

a conditioning device being located prior to said weakening device as viewed in the direction of travel, said conditioning device essentially removes a plurality of uppermost layers of said boundary layer of air.

13. (Original) The device of claim 12, wherein said conditioning device includes a strip

VOI0280.US

PATENT

that extends in a transverse direction to the application surface.

14. (Original) The device of claim 12, wherein said conditioning device is located at a distance of between approximately 3 mm and 10 mm from the application surface.

15-19 (Canceled)

VOI0280.US